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enterprise by sea, and of Jackson's Expedition across Franz Joseph land. When once the way is open, science will send its votaries to the field which is awaiting them.

Peary's observations and collections in Ethnology, Meteorology and other departments on Inglefield Gulf will repay the cost of the expedition; and the results of the relief expedition, like those of its predecessors, are of great value. Large collections were made by the latter, which will go to the American Museum of Natural History of New York, and the Museum of the University of Kansas.

—MR. L. O. HOWARD, of the Department of Agriculture of Washington, has made a discovery which will probably be of great practical importance. He finds that a thin stratum or film of oil on the surface of the water where they breed, will destroy the larvæ of mosquitoes. This will prove welcome news to people living in many localities. How to destroy this pest of many parts of the earth has been a subject of thought for a long time. The late Dr. Robert Lamborn gave two prizes for essays which advocated the propagation of dragon-flies as the most feasible mode of attack, since the mosquito is the natural food of these raptorial insects; but no one has yet undertaken to demonstrate the practicability of the plan. The application of oil to the waters of swamps and lagoons where the *Culices* breed, is a simple matter, and the expense will be small in comparison with the advantage gained. The use of oil in the valley of the Missouri River, and on many parts of our coast, would increase the value of the land to an untold degree. In fact, the habitable part of the earth in many latitudes must be greatly increased in extent by this discovery. Meanwhile we must be content to let these small creatures render life miserable or impossible, and hide behind "bars" which do not always protect, or suffocate in stinking smudges, until the use of oil for their destruction becomes general. In waters which are not private property, it will be well for the States to lead the way, and make appropriations for the purpose.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Bulletin of the U. S. Fish Commission for 1893.¹—The contents of this volume comprise the papers that were read at the congress

¹ Bulletin of the U. S. Fish Commission, Vol. XIII, for 1893. Washington, 1894.

of persons connected with fishery interests, held in Chicago Oct. 16, 1893. The papers cover a wide range of subjects, and being the views of men qualified by experience and study to speak upon the subjects treated, are of practical worth. A synopsis of the topics discussed includes: 1. Fishery laws and administration of the fisheries. 2. The sciences in relation to fisheries and fish-culture. 3. Methods of capture, utilization and distribution of fishery products. 4. Fish-culture. 5. The world's fisheries. In addition, an interesting paper is contributed by G. F. Kunz on pearls, and the utilization and application of the shells in which they are found, in the ornamental arts, as shown at the World's Columbian Exposition. The illustrations of this article are beautiful both in subject and execution.

Geological Survey of Michigan, Vol. V.²—The contents of the present volume comprise a report upon the Iron and Copper regions of the Upper Peninsula by Dr. Rominger; and a paper by A. C. Lane, on deep borings in the Lower Peninsula, based on the work done by the late Mr. Wright. Mr. Lane's paper is prefaced by a brief chapter on the origin of salt, gypsum and petroleum written by the State Geologist, Mr. L. L. Hubbard, and is accompanied by 73 plates and a map.

Dr. Rominger's report covers the work done in the iron region in 1881 and 1882 and includes recent observations made in the Copper-bearing or Keweenaw group.

Geology of Minnesota.³—The materials for this quarto volume have been accumulating since the Survey began, and it has been found desirable to issue the publication in two parts. Pt. 1, includes 5 chapters on the paleontology and systematic geology of the Lower Silurian which is found in the southeastern part of the State, and a historical sketch of investigation of the Lower Silurian in the Upper Mississippi Valley. The paleontological work is distributed as follows: Cretaceous Fossil Plants, Leo Lesquereux; Cretaceous Microscopical Fauna, A. Woodward and B. W. Thomas; Notes on other Cretaceous fossils, N. H. Winchell; Lower Silurian Sponges, Graptolites, Corals and Brachiopods, N. H. Winchell and C. Schuchert; Lower Silurian Bryozoa, E. O. Ulrich. Each chapter is accompanied by page plate illustrations, 34 in all.

² Geological Survey of Michigan, Vol. V, 1881-1893. Lansing, 1895.

³ Final Report of the Geology of Minnesota, Vol. III, Pt. 1, Paleontology. Minneapolis, 1895.